IDW

47

COVER A

SONIC™

THE HEDGEHOG

ITO

STANLEY · FROESE · HERMS

SEGA®

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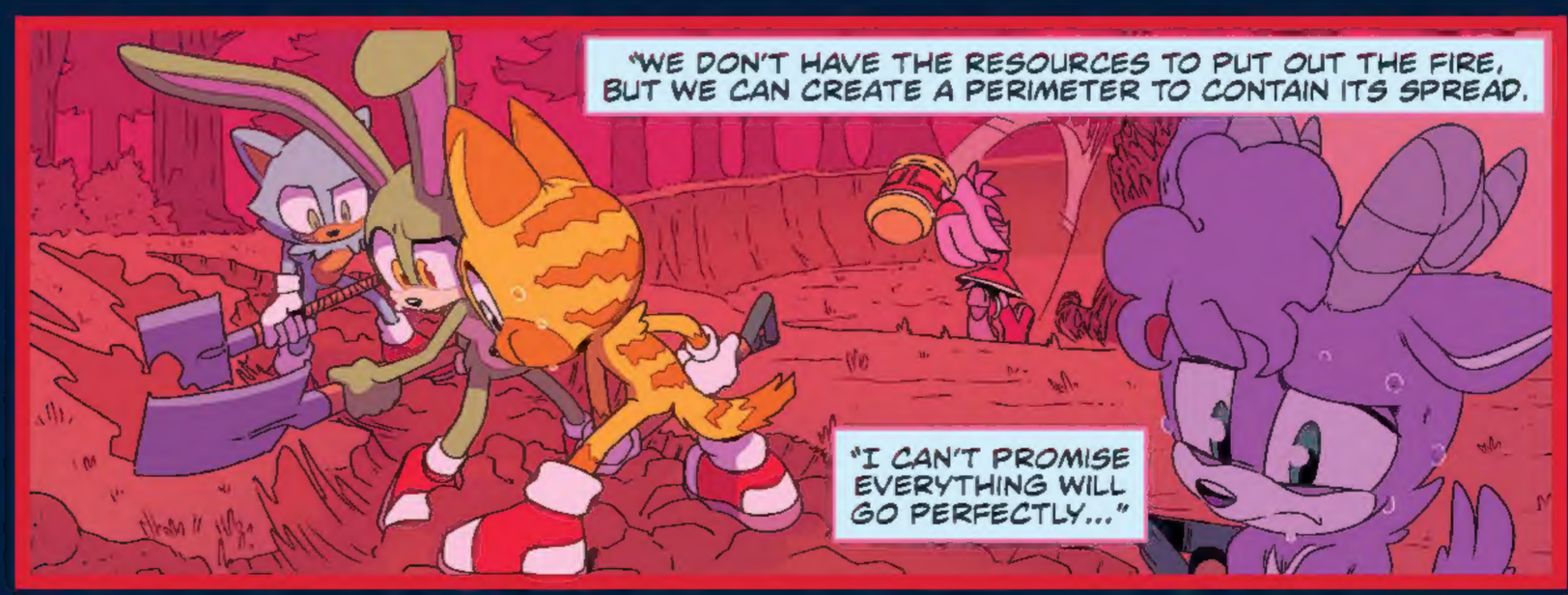
OH...!

STORY SO FAR



AMY ROSE
Hammer-swinging Heroine.
Restoration ally.

TANGLE THE LEMUR
Excitable Hero.
Elastic-tailed brawler.

BELLE THE TINKERER
Clumsy Marionette.
Enthusiastic new-comer.

JEWEL THE BEETLE
Restoration Leader.
Tangle's best friend.

GRAB MY TAIL!

AHH-- GOT IT!

:UNF: STUPID HEAVY--

SLOSH

SPLOOSH

WAH!

OOFDA...

THAT WAS...

...AWESOME!

LET'S ROLL IT AGAIN!

NO!

HANG ON... IT'S ABOUT TO GET BUMPY!

THERE'S NO WAY--WE'RE ALL GONNA GET SPLINTERED!

I DON'T WANNA GET...

...WAAAH!

WHOA, HEY...

...LET'S BE BRAVE TOGETHER, OKAY? NOBODY'S GONNA GET HURT. I'LL MAKE SURE.

PROMISE?

Y-YEAH! PROMISE!

WOO!

HOW ARE YOU ENJOYING THIS?!

HOW ARE YOU NOT?

I'VE WANTED TO BE AN ADVENTURER *FOREVER*.

DOING NEW THINGS, HELPING PEOPLE, JUST GOING FOR IT, LIKE WITH WHISPER...

WHO'S WHIS-- *GYAH!*

THWAK

...*THIS* IS WHAT I *LOVE!*

SWISH

BELIEVING IN YOURSELF LIKE THAT... IT DOESN'T COME EASILY TO EVERYONE. YOU'RE LUCKY.

HUH. NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT THAT WAY.

SPLASH

SHRRRRRRRR

WHUH-OH... EVERYBODY HANG ON TIGHT!

RAH!

SHRRAAAAH

WAA-HOO-HOO-HOOOO!

HUH?

TANGLE! BELLE!

TAKE OVER FOR ME!

JEWEL! COME QUICK!

WHERE ARE THEY?!

THERE!

TANGLE...!

BLUGH... M'OKAY...

WHERE ARE THE--OH!

DON'T WORRY, I GOTCHA COVERED.

ASHE!

DAD!

YOU--DID YOU KEEP MY BOY SAFE OUT THERE?

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU...

WE WERE BRAVE *TOGETHER!*

THAT'S FINE, THERE'S NO NEED.

IT'S WHAT I DO, I GUESS.

LOOKS LIKE THE CAMPGROUND'S STILL IN ONE PIECE, THAT'S GOOD!

FOR NOW...

THE FIREBREAK WON'T HOLD FOR--

--BADNIK!

WAIT! IT'S SAFE!

AT LEAST, WE THINK IT IS...!

IT HELPED US GET OUT OF THE WOODS. I GUESS IT'S DEFECTIVE?

A FRIENDLY MOTOBUG? THERE'S A FIRST FOR EVERYTHING.

THEY'RE KINDA *CUTE* WHEN THEY'RE NOT TRYING TO RUN YOU OVER.

WE'VE GOT BIGGER PROBLEMS RIGHT NOW; AT THIS RATE, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE FIRE BREAKS THROUGH HERE.

IT MIGHT BE FOR THE BEST TO CALL IT OFF AND FINISH THE EVACUATION.

I GUESS THAT'S IT FOR THE FOREST...

I... I'M SORRY I DRAGGED ALL OF YOU INTO THIS MESS.

IF ANYBODY WANTS TO LEAVE, I WON'T BLAME YOU. BUT IF THERE'S *ANY* WAY LEFT TO FIGHT THE FIRE, I THINK WE'VE GOTTA TRY.

YOU CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF FOR THIS, AMY!

AND I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE... THIS IS TOO MUCH FUN!

YOU HAVE AN INTERESTING IDEA OF "FUN"... BUT YEAH. WE'VE GOT TO HELP.

I THINK...

...I HAVE A PLAN.

YOU DO?

I-I'M NOT SURE IF IT'LL WORK, THOUGH! IT'S RISKY, AND IT'LL TAKE ALL OF US...

WE CAN TACKLE ANYTHING IF WE'RE WORKING TOGETHER!

YEAH!

WHAT ARE YOU--?

IT'S A THING YOU DO AS A TEAM, AND AS FRIENDS.

AND YOU WANT ME TO--

OF COURSE!

LET'S GO!

TANGLE, AMY, I NEED YOU TO DAM THE RIVER. THINK YOU CAN DO THAT?

I'VE GOT A FEW IDEAS...!

GREAT! BELLE, YOU'RE WITH ME.

EVERYONE, PLEASE MOVE BACK TO THE PARK GATE! BE READY FOR EVACUATION!

READY!

OKAY, HERE GOES...!

HNNNG!

RRGH--

--IT'S WORKING! KEEP GOING!

KRUNCH

GRUMBLE

WHOOM

SSSSSWWWRRRRRRRRRRRRR

ONE FLOOD, COMING RIGHT UP!

SPLSH

HURRY, PLEASE!

DANGIT!

AAH!

IT'S OKAY! WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

VRRRM

OKAY, THAT SHOULD DO IT...

QUICK, BREAK THE DAM!

BREAK IT? I DIDN'T ACTUALLY THINK THAT FAR AHEAD...

IT'S NOTHING A LITTLE SMASHING CAN'T FIX!

EVERYBODY STAND BACK!

KYAH!

PIKO

THAT SHOULD RETURN THE RIVER TO ITS NATURAL COURSE, ALTHOUGH THERE MIGHT BE SOME NEW *WHITEWATER.*

THAT'S A BONUS IN MY BOOK!

EVERYBODY'S BACK AT THE GATE!

HOW ARE THINGS LOOKING NOW?

WELL...

"...THE WATER SOAKING THE GROUND WILL STOP THE FIRE FROM SPREADING THROUGH THE UNDERGROWTH...

"...AND THE TREES IN CAMP ARE FAR ENOUGH APART TO PREVENT SPREAD THROUGH THE CANOPY...

"...WITH ANY LUCK, THE CAMPGROUND WILL BE ENOUGH TO STOP THE FIRE FROM SPREADING FURTHER DOWN THE VALLEY."

THEN YOU...

YOU DID IT, JEWEL!

NOT ME... WE DID IT!

YEAH!

THERE'S NO WAY I COULD HAVE ORGANIZED EVERYTHING WITHOUT AMY'S HELP.

AW, YOU JUST NEEDED A LITTLE ENCOURAGEMENT!

NEVER UNDERESTIMATE WHAT YOU CAN DO IF YOU BELIEVE IN YOURSELF!

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO...

JEWEL, THERE'S SOMETHING I GOTTA DO, TOO...

...I'M QUITTING THE RESORTRATION!

UH...

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT! WELL IT IS, BUT NOT LIKE HOW IT--

--AH, GEEZ.

TANGLE. IT'S OKAY.

I... I KNOW. THE RESTORATION HAS BEEN STIFLING YOU. BUT YOU *STAYED*, FOR *ME*.

AND I LET YOU DO IT, BECAUSE I WASN'T BRAVE ENOUGH TO GO IT ALONE...

I...

WHAT THE RESTORATION'S DOING... IT'S NOT FOR EVERYONE. THE WORLD NEEDS PEOPLE LIKE YOU TOO, TANGLE. SO EVEN IF YOU GO YOUR OWN WAY. IT'S OKAY. *I'LL BE OKAY.*

NO MATTER WHAT, I'M SO, SO PROUD OF YOU.

...THANKS, JEWEL.

LATER...

WOOD GLUE

OKAY, CAREFUL AS YOU PLACE IT.

I'VE GOT A CLAMP...

PERFECT! THANKS, TAILS.

AW, IT'S NOTHING.

WITH THAT TAKEN CARE OF, WE CAN TAKE A LOOK AT THIS LITTLE GUY...

...WE'VE MET OTHER EGGMAN ROBOTS THAT LEARNED TO DEFY THEIR PROGRAMMING, BUT THEY'VE ALL BEEN MORE *ADVANCED* MODELS.

DO YOU THINK WE COULD DO THIS FOR *OTHER* BADNIKS?

THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO FIND OUT!

IF WE COULD EVEN HELP JUST A FEW...!

...AND I THOUGHT WE WERE GONNA CRASH FOR SURE, BUT THEN WHAM! BELLE DID HER SUPER KICK THING AND WE *JUMPED THE ENTIRE GORGE!*

IT WAS SICK!

WE FELL IN THE RIVER RIGHT AFTER THAT *ANYWAY*, BUT STILL.

AND I MISSED IT ALL? *MAN!*

YOU *WANT* TO GET DUNKED IN A RIVER?

...YOU'VE GOT A POINT THERE.

SO, IF YOU'RE DOIN' YOUR OWN THING NOW, WHAT'S YOUR NEXT MOVE?

I'M GONNA FIND WHISPER.

A WHILE BACK SHE ASKED ME IF I WANTED TO TRAVEL WITH HER*. I'M READY NOW.

*STH: TANGLE AND WHISPER #4--EDS.

AAAND I MIGHT HAVE BEEN A LITTLE *HASTY* ABOUT QUITTING THE RESTORATION.

JEWEL AND I TALKED ABOUT IT SOME MORE, AND WE'RE GONNA TRY SOMETHING *NEW*.

WELL IF YOU GET INTO ANYTHING FUN, LET ME KNOW!

WILL DO!

THANK GOODNESS IT ALL WORKED OUT IN THE END!

SOMETIMES A LITTLE CHANGE IS JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED.

NO! NO DOCTORS! ARE YOU *TRYING* TO JINX US?

WHAT? I'D HAVE FIGURED YOU'D BE RARIN' TO GO AFTER THAT *NICE, RELAXING VACATION* OF YOURS.

AHH, I *GIVE UP*... I GUESS A BREAK JUST ISN'T IN THE CARDS.

I'M GLAD THE GIRLS AND I WERE THERE TO HELP, THOUGH. THINGS COULD HAVE GOTTEN *REALLY* BAD.

LET'S HOPE THAT FIRE WAS JUST A *FLUKE*.

. . .

SHFF SHFF SHFF

K-KRACKLE

...

!

FIREWATCH, COME IN.

"YUP. IT'S LIKE YOU SAID..."

"...THIS WAS NO ACCIDENT."

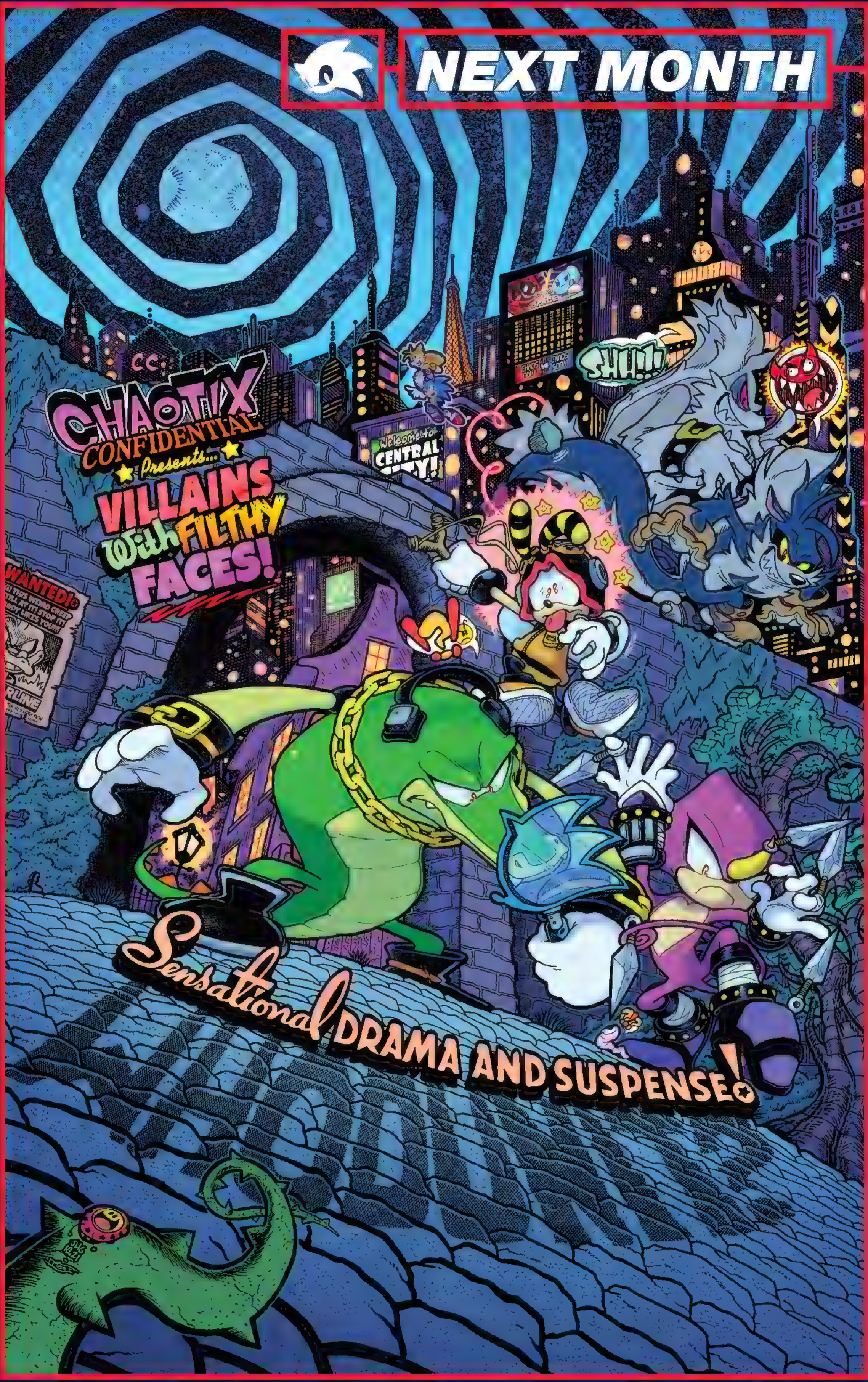
RANGE ATTACK ON CITY

MISSING

CHAOS COLA

NEXT TIME: THE CHAOTIX ARE ON THE CASE!

NEXT MONTH


CHAOTIX CONFIDENTIAL
Presents...
VILLAINS With FILTHY FACES!
WANTED!
SHH!!!
Welcome to CENTRAL CITY!
Sensational DRAMA AND SUSPENSE!

SONIC LETTERS SQUAD

Hi, campers! Thank you for joining Evan Stanley, Matt Froese, Matt Herms, and Shawn Lee for the final part of "Trial By Fire"! Now, a special message from Evan Stanley!

Hi!

I asked my editors for a chance to write a letter in the back of this story, as the inspiration for "Trial by Fire" was especially personal to me. It's the final form of a story I've wanted to tell for years. See, this arc was inspired by a real-life experience: when I was around 15, my family went on a whitewater rafting trip down the Rogue River in Oregon. Forest fires broke out on the surrounding mountainsides as we were deep in the wilderness and our only way out was through the rapids. Happily, we were all fine, and I got some great material to use all these years later!

But this is about more than an exciting adventure; the danger of forest fire is extremely real, and growing every year. While I was planning out the details of this arc in the summer of 2020, over 40,000 acres of the beautiful Redwood forests in my hometown's mountains burned in a fire sparked by a dry lightning storm; an extreme weather event which, before the onset of climate change, was unheard of in the area. Not only were some of the world's tallest and oldest trees destroyed, but thousands of people were displaced or left homeless... and this is only one of many similar events happening every year, all around the world. I hope that this story can serve as a reminder to respect the power of fire and the environment in our daily lives. Hopefully, in times of crisis we can work together to get through it, and safeguard ourselves and our world against more hurt.

And in the spirit of that, here's a few safety tips to keep in mind:

Always fully extinguish campfires with water poured over and mixed with the ashes until it's cold, or completely smothered with dirt.

Be mindful of how you handle fire and other ignition sources in your daily life, especially in dry areas where flammable material is plentiful.

Only start fires when and where it's allowed. Look up fire safety rules for your local area before doing anything involving fire; there might be restrictions, or permits you need.

You may also be able to look up information on fire prevention, as well as preparation, evacuation, and ways to help your community in the event of fire.

Wildfiles are made more likely by human impact on the environment; it's good to learn about your local ecosystems and how you can fit into them.

Thank you so much for reading!
Evan Stanley
Artist/Writer

Thank you for joining us, Squad. Please don't forget to send your art and letters to letters@idwpublishing.com, and make sure to mark them: "OKAY TO PRINT!" And join the IDW Sonic Comics Squad on Facebook! Next month, trouble in Central City and the Chaotix are on the case!

ART ADAM BRYCE THOMAS COLORS LEONARDO ITO

ART **NATALIE HAINES**

ART NATHALIE FOURDRAINE

SONIC™

THE HEDGEHOG

IMPOSTER SYNDROME

MEET SURGE AND KIT

THEY'RE TEARING UP THE ROAD TO SONIC THE HEDGEHOG'S 50TH ISSUE EXTRAVAGANZA IN THIS EPIC 4-PART SPINOFF SERIES!

***IMPOSTER SYNDROME* MINISERIES**
SHIPPING BI-MONTHLY
BEGINNING IN NOVEMBER

WRITTEN BY **IAN FLYNN**
ART BY **THOMAS ROTHLISBERGER**

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